

EP73 Revelation 9:20-21 P3

We have been discussing this issue of our **Willingness to Believe** as we contrast those who are now “believing” with those who refuse to repent of the **work of their hands**. In our last Podcast, we closed the episode pondering the question, what it is that God requires from us, what is it that He desires to produce in us?

Our Willingness & His Timing

Picking up where we left off, this issue of our **willingness** to let Him eradicate the enemies in our soul is huge because He is clear that He does not want us to make any treaties of “peace” with the enemies in our land, as Israel did with the Gibeonites. His desire is to eradicate all His enemies, so that we might now come to abide in **peace, rest, fruitfulness, and security**. You see, when we make treaties with these enemies (not truly consider them to be an enemy of our soul), over time we will likely end up worshipping the gods of the land, just like the Israelites. We will become idolators.

Honesty From Within

Now do not be confused. It is God’s job to choose **when** He is going to war against a specific area of wrong belief and unbelief in our life—that which expresses itself in all manner of sinful behavior and internalized emotional and mental terror. **Our job, however, in the meantime, is to never be ok with those areas—to never make treaties with the enemies in our land.**

I mean this in the sense that God wants us to be *honest* and know that those areas in our life are not rooted in faith, and therefore will produce (and likely already have produced) all manner of sinful terror and destruction in our lives and will continue to do so unless remedied by God. This honesty He desires from us can be the impetus to our willingness and our cry for help.

King David struggled with this level of raw honesty. His tendency was to try to hide the truth of his brokenness and his sin, lying not just to God and to others, but to himself. He either cloaked himself or allowed himself to be cloaked in religious delusion, and despite doing some terrible things (sleeping with a man’s wife and then killing him to cover up what happened), he carried on for a year (more or less) as if everything was ok and good with God.

This tendency of David is perhaps why he had a reputation within his own family, even as a young man, for pride and deceit.¹ I am sure many of us can relate, I know I can. But over a long hard and grueling year, God worked on David to bring him to the point of honesty. Let’s look at some of David’s description of those days.

For Your arrows have sunk deep into me, and Your hand has pressed down on me. There is no soundness in my flesh because of Your indignation; there is no health in my bones because of my sin. For my iniquities are gone over my head; as a heavy burden they weigh too much for me. My wounds grow foul and fester because of my folly. I am bent over and greatly bowed down; I go mourning all day long. For my loins are filled with burning, and there is no soundness in my flesh. I am exhausted

¹ See **1 Samuel 17:28**

and badly crushed; I groan because of the agitation of my heart.²

When I kept silent about my sin, my body wasted away through my groaning all day long. For day and night Your hand was heavy upon me; my vitality was drained away as with the fever heat of summer. Selah. I acknowledged my sin to You, and my iniquity I did not hide; I said, "I will confess my transgressions to **Yahweh**"; and You forgave the guilt of my sin. Selah. Therefore, let everyone who is godly pray to You in a time when You may be found;³

Behold, You desire truth in the innermost being, and in the hidden part You will make me know wisdom.⁴

What do we learn from King David? We are to honestly admit to God and to ourselves the truth about those areas of our life that are not transformed and in which we are obviously seeking our own way. And with a heart of honesty, cry out to God for help, asking Him to make those areas of our life rooted in faith.

King David wanted what he wanted, and so he took it. It likely made him feel good, helped him cope with pain, loneliness, unmet expectations and desires, childhood wounds from his brothers and dad, and who knows what else ached within his soul. Yet, he knew it was not ok, and that his choices were not in alignment with the truth of the Word of God; that was obvious in all his attempts to hide and lie about all that happened.

So, he buried the truth, and covered up his choices in all manner of religious pretense. David chose delusion and God let him choose delusion; and it brought him great suffering. But after a year of needless torment, David realized that all along God just wanted him to reject the pretense and choose to live in truth in his innermost being, for then, and only then, would he, David, be able to be honest about his need for God to create in him a clean heart, and choose to cry out to God for deliverance.

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Willingness in Action

Like David, God desires us to live in truth in our innermost being, fully aware of our brokenness, our sin, and all the ways we take what we want and pursue our own ways to find our own source of help and comfort when we feel that God does not show up for us. And He wants us to cry out to **Yahweh Yasha** to do what His name promises: to free, deliver, or save us from ourselves.⁵ And in His time, He will. This cry for deliverance is the fundamental essence of what it means to be "**willing.**"

Identification As Sons and Not Slaves

In the meantime, we are not to be carrying the burden of our sin. Jesus died for our sins and has thrown

² *Psalm 38:2-8*

³ *Psalm 38:2-6*

⁴ *Psalm 51:6*

⁵ The name **Yahweh Yasha** means **Yahweh** who sets free or saves

them as far as the east is from the west.⁶ Remember, our burden is that of believing that He is our only source for, well, everything.

Therefore, until the time of our deliverance, until He pours out His grace upon us, we are **NOT** to live in shame or the fear of punishment simply because God has yet to do His work. We need to rest in the truth that *“He has **NOT** dealt with us according to our sins, nor rewarded us according to our iniquities.”*⁷

If we are afraid of punishment just because we do bad things that are rooted in our sinful nature, we have not been perfected in *agape* love.⁸ We are still choosing to live as a slave in the household of God and not as a son who is free. Or said another way, we have not been convinced that He love us as we are.

The **Codex** is clear, Christ died to set us free from the penalty of the sins committed under the first covenant of law.⁹ Hence, *“God demonstrates His own love towards us, in that while we are now being sinners, Christ died for us.”*¹⁰ The point is that God is not surprised by all the brokenness in us nor what we do as a result. After all, He caused it; He wounded us, and some of us so deeply that it does not seem we will ever escape our pain and associated dysfunctions.

But since He is the initiator of our wounds, it is His job, and His job alone, to heal us and to transform us when He is ready. He says, *“It is I who put to death and give life. I have wounded, and it is I who heal, and there is no one who can deliver from my hand.”*¹¹

I know it is hard to believe, but God is not sitting on His throne ready to thump us in a tit-for-tat manner every time we do something terrible. *“He has **NOT** dealt with us according to our sins, nor rewarded us according to our iniquities.”* He simply wants us to be honest and invite Him to come and heal us. *“Come, let us return to **Yahweh**. For He has torn, but He will heal us; He has wounded, but He will bandage us.”*¹² *“For I will restore you to health and I will heal you of your wounds, declares **Yahweh**.”*¹³

Thus, we are not to hide these areas of brokenness which stem from our wrong belief and unbelief, nor cloak them under some religious pretense, as if what we are doing is ok and good with God. That just causes deep agony within and an indescribable torment. Our areas of brokenness are what they are, and they will remain what they are until **Yahweh** decides to transform them. Hence, He desires us to live in truth in our innermost being and be willing to be honest with Him and honest with ourselves and admit that our ways do not conform to His standard of righteousness, and that our attempts to comfort ourselves and to control the outcomes of our lives through seeking our own ways will always, always, and always fail and always, always, always, result in more pain.

His name, **Yahweh Yasha** (**Yahweh** who frees), should cause us to have **hope** that if we remain honest, and willing, He will, in His time, do the work and deliver us from the wounds He created. We just need to wait on Him. It may feel that He has not shown up for us, that He is not helping us, but He promises that

⁶ See *John 3:16; Psalm 103:8-14; Colossians 2:13-15*

⁷ *Psalm 103:10*

⁸ *1 John 4:18*

⁹ *Hebrews 9:15*

¹⁰ *Romans 5:8*. Note: “while we were yet” is rendered in the *present active participle*

¹¹ *Deuteronomy 32:39*. See also *Psalm 51:8; Hosea 6:1*

¹² *Hosea 6:1*

¹³ *Jeremiah 30:17*

He will never leave us nor forsake us, so we can confidently say that the Lord is my helper, I will not be afraid, what can man do to me.¹⁴ That is why David also said: *“Therefore, let everyone who is godly pray to You in a time when You may be found; surely in a flood of great waters they will not reach him. You are my hiding place; You preserve me from trouble; You surround me with songs of deliverance.”*¹⁵

The Spirit also declared to us:

Do not fear, for I am with you; do not anxiously look about you for I am your God. I will strengthen you, surely, I will help you, surely I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.¹⁶

But now, thus says **Yahweh**, your Creator, O Jacob, and He who formed you, O Israel, "Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name; you are Mine! When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they will not overflow you. When you walk through the fire, you will not be scorched, nor will the flame burn you. For I am **Yahweh** your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Savior. I have given Egypt as your ransom, Cush and Seba in your place. Since you are precious in My sight, since you are honored and I love you, I will give other men in your place and other peoples in exchange for your life. Do not fear, for I am with you..."¹⁷

With that beautiful assurance, we are to choose to live by faith, without shame, guilt, and the fear of punishment, knowing that our transformation is God’s responsibility, and He will do it in His timing, we just need to remain honest about our need for Him in all things, all the time.

Our honesty, in effect, gives **Yahweh** permission to act. He does not force Himself upon us. He knocks, but it is up to us to open the door. Until David was honest with himself and God, there was no opening or entry place for God to render His mercy upon David. But once He cried out to God, the door was opened, and God ministered to David and restored his soul, and engaged David in deep fellowship.

Our **honesty** leads to our **willingness**, and our **willingness** leads us to **cry out** to **Yahweh Yasha** and ask Him to save us from these areas of wrong belief and unbelief that manifest themselves in both external and internal sin, bad behavior, and all manner of emotional and mental torment. When we cry out with an honest heart, He hears our cries, and He will answer in His timing.

Sure, He may use the waters, the flood, and the fire, and the journey will likely be very difficult, but His name guarantees deliverance. Hence, He tells us not to fear nor be dismayed. He will do the work, but it must be accomplished **by grace through faith** as He teaches us **WHY** we need to believe in His name and **HOW** to now be believing in His name.

Hating the Flesh (No Treaties)

It was mentioned previously that God does not want us to make any treaties of “peace” with the enemies in our land, as Israel did with the Gibeonites. What that means is that we are not to cover our *flesh* with the garments of religion, or some other artifice to numb our conscience toward God. That is

¹⁴ **Hebrews 13:5-6**

¹⁵ **Psalm 32:6-7**

¹⁶ **Isaiah 41:10**

¹⁷ **Isaiah 43:1-5**

NOT living in the honesty of our brokenness and neediness.

Our honest cry to **Yahweh Yasha** for deliverance, is how we come to hate even the garments polluted by our *flesh*, refusing to let our white robes of righteousness, given to us by God, be dirtied and sullied black by the **works of our hands**. He addressed this very thing to the church at Sardis. His point was that our dedication to our religious ways functions as a false substitute for transformation, and it is a lie.¹⁸ It is not living honestly before Him. And if we sully our “*white garments*” with the filth of the **work of our hands**, it is a big problem. Jesus told those in the church at Sardis, that there are only a few people who have NOT soiled their garments, “*and they will walk with Me in white, for they are now worthy.*” The rest, He implied, will have their names erased from the book of life and He will not confess their names before the Father and the angels.¹⁹

There are probably a lot of reasons for our dishonesty, but most likely all of them are tied to shame and fear. Perhaps we feel ashamed over how what we say we believe does not align up with what is in our hearts, or with all the ways we live in all those secret and undisclosed places that we hope others never see. Perhaps we know that if we were honest, others would judge us and disqualify us, cancel us, and not love us, but reject us.

So, it is easier to make treaties with our enemies and dress them up in the garments of religion or other subterfuge to keep from being exposed. That is not to say that we need to be self-disclosing before people, that is not wise, but as David expressed: “**Behold, You desire truth in the innermost being.**”

Thus, in the honesty of our neediness, in our cry for deliverance, and in our **willingness to wait** for Jesus to deliver us and transform us, we are choosing to live like that little child dependent upon God for all things, all the time (**Step-2**). And in so doing, we will enter the kingdom of heaven. But “*whoever does not choose to receive the kingdom of God like a child will not enter it.*”²⁰

The Process of War

The Israelites ventures of war and conquest in the Promised Land are a picture of how God conquers that territory in our soul.²¹ Sometimes God does a big, fast, and miraculous work of clearing out certain enemies (as He did with Jericho) and sometimes He takes it slow where it seems that certain aspects of our life will never change (as with the Philistines who persistently occupied the land). But He will provide the targets, the strategy for victory, and He will even send the angels out before us to confuse and distress our enemies. We will just need to follow His lead.

With that said, we must not go out driven by our own passion and zealous desire and attempt to take out the enemies, for that is just another **work of our hands**. Every time the Israelites tried to do that, they failed. We cannot force our transformation through any means of human effort or desire. We cannot make ourselves godly, we cannot make ourselves good, we cannot make ourselves stop sinning, and every attempt is an act of idolatry, as we substitute ourselves for the Spirit of God.

We must come to realize that this is His war! He will lead us to participate as He readies us and as we become **willing** to open the door when He knocks, choosing to let Him come into the rooms of our soul

¹⁸ **Jude 23; Haggai 2:10-14**

¹⁹ **Revelation 3:4-5**

²⁰ **Mark 10:15.** See also **Matthew 18:3; Luke 18:17**

²¹ **Hebrews 3-4**

and clear out what needs to be cleared out and to remodel what needs to be remodeled. Our transformation therefore is not our burden to carry; He is responsible for it from the beginning-to-the-end; hence, He is the **Alpha** and the **Omega** of our lives. He wounded us and He will heal us. Remember, we are yoked by faith and our burden to carry is simply to now be believing.

Sounds Like an Excuse. But Is It?

This entire issue of how God wants us to view sin and the law which provokes sin, is so hard to get our hearts and minds wrapped around. Our wrong belief has been ingrained in the DNA of our soul from the time of the fall of man, where humanity first came to believe that we can be good like God, and that we must be good like God. Still, to some, all this sounds like nothing more than a convoluted way to make an excuse for our sin and rebellion and to justify how we want to live. After all, aren't we commanded to be holy in all our behavior as our heavenly Father is holy?²² That is what most of us have come to believe.

But little do we know that this passage is written in the *passive* voice, so it should literally translate that we are to let God cause us to be holy. In other words, we are commanded to be **willing** to let Him have His war, so that He can fill our bodies with the New Creation, which is created in His likeness, righteous, holy, and true.²³ The use of the *passive* voice changes the whole dynamic and it places the responsibility for our transformation on God's back and not on ours. It is not our burden to carry. Our job is to be **willing** (living in the honesty of our need and crying out for deliverance); our burden is to now be believing, and His job is to do the work.

Yet, there is something that gnaws at us that is sin obsessed, whether it is our sin or the sin of others, and so we judge, condemn, hide, lie, pretend, and try our best to be holy and good Christians, and try our best not to be caught not being holy and good Christians.

But we must remember that **the source matters, the source is everything!** Only God is Good!

Thus, every attempt on our behalf to be good and godly, to control our sin and rebellion, and to be a better person is sin in-and-of-itself. There is nothing Godly about it—just another **work of our hands** that is defiled before the face of the Father.

The hard-core truth is that we were born into sin and our sinful nature defines every aspect of our lives in these bodies of flesh.²⁴ Thus, He asks, and He states: "*who can make the clean out of the unclean? No one!*" "*What is crooked cannot be straightened and what is lacking cannot be counted.*"²⁵ He continues: "*What is man, that he should be pure, or he who is born of a woman, that he should be righteous? Behold, He puts no trust in His holy ones, and the heavens are not pure in His sight; how much less one who is detestable and corrupt, man, who drinks iniquity like water!*"²⁶

Therefore, the Spirit declares, "*there is none righteous, not even one.*" "*There is no one who does good, there is not even one.*"²⁷ This is an indictment against all humanity, who from generation-to-generation has continually strived to be good for God and has failed. And with this as a pillar of truth, we can be

²² **1 Peter 1:15-16**

²³ **See Ephesians 4:24**

²⁴ **Psalm 51:5**

²⁵ **Job 14:4; Ecclesiastes 1:15**

²⁶ **Job 15:14-16**

²⁷ **Romans 3:10, 12**

confident that only Jesus can do good, we can just be the willing vessels through which He expresses His goodness.

As the Spirit comes to possess our being, or to fill up the space in our heart, mind, and soul that is made available through the eradication of our enemies, we will find that we do the “*good works*” that were designated or appointed for us to fulfill, and it will be amazing²⁸ Technically, He will be the one who does these “*good works*,” for the only one who is good, will do His works in-and-through our bodies in the presence of His Father. Hence, if we ask anything in His name, He will do it, so that the Father will be glorified—not in us—but in the Son.²⁹

This truth brings back to mind all the amazing promises Jesus personally communicated to the 7-churches. All the religious deeds that we do for God (the “**works of our hands**”), no matter how abundant, glorious, and effective, are meaningless to Him. Unless our works are authorized and performed in the presence of the Father by the **only one** who has seen the Father, they are lawless, worthless, and will be of no regard. This was the thrust of His message to the church at Ephesus and Sardis.

Keep in mind, during the tribulation, the time when these trumpet judgments are being blown, religion is still fully charged and people are still trying to make themselves right with God by being good “Christians” or by being good Muslims, Mormons, Buddhists, Environmentalist, Globalists, or whatever. These are the mountains, the rocks, and the caves in the hills that people run to for protection. And tragically, they are so attached to their religion that they cannot see the futility of all their attempts at being good and worthy.

But the worship of God that is not based on the actual character and nature of God (the fact that only He is good) is simply idolatry, as it is the worship of a god of our own creation, or in effect, the worship of demons. One does not have to wear a hooded robe and stand in the dark with a candle in a chalked-out circle with a pentagram on the floor to be worshipping demons. No; one just needs to **NOT** worship **Yahweh** for who He says He is, but instead choose to worship a form of **Yahweh** that is fitting to their religious constructs of who they think He should be.

This may seem to be an unthinkable conclusion that many of those sincere, good hearted people within Christianity who believe they are serving and worshipping God, are serving and worshipping a God of their own creation—demons. But the pattern was set for us in ancient history.

After the Israelites had been delivered from Egypt and crossed the red sea (which is all a picture of the Israelites having been born-again, baptized, and separated unto God, having escaped the world and the world’s ruler—as Satan was imaged in Pharaoh), they still struggled believing **Yahweh** and turned to what they had known for most of their lives, idolatry. But this time, they gave it a **Yahweh** spin.

Exodus 32:3-5

Then all the people tore off the gold rings which were in their ears and brought them to Aaron. He took this from their hand and fashioned it with a graving tool and made it into a molten calf; and they said, "This is your god, O Israel, who brought you up from the land of Egypt." Now when Aaron saw this, he

²⁸ ***Ephesians 2:10***

²⁹ ***John 14:13-14***

built an altar before it; and Aaron made a proclamation and said, "Tomorrow shall be a feast to **Yahweh**.

Yes, after amazing miracle after miracle, they returned to what they had learned in Egypt (in the world) and created a God of their own liking, and they even called this golden cow, **Yahweh**. Now that is unthinkable and shocking.

Yet that is the exact same thing we do when after having been converted by God by grace through faith—through believing—(which by the way is an amazing miracle), we somehow become convinced that we must now choose to do all manner of things to be approved by God and to obtain His blessing, whether that is not sinning, not sinning, not sinning, and not sinning, and instead we are convinced that we are to serve, worship, preach, study, teach, pray, do small group, Sunday school, witness, go on missions trips, and oh did I mention, not be sinning.

This is all the worthless "**works of our hands**" that is defiled as we come to worship another Christ, and to preach another gospel. As such we have followed in the pattern of those who came before us and built our golden cows and made our sacrifices to our **Yahweh**, the one we built, as we worship the demonic, all the while saying, "praise Jesus, glory to God, tomorrow shall be a feast to **Yahweh**." All of this is *anathema*. The Spirit addresses this sick tendency we have towards idolatry when He wrote the church at Galatia and Corinth.

Not surprisingly, we will find in **Revelation 11** that those who do not repent of the **works of their hands** and the worship of demons and their idolatry, become so deceived and delusional that all their efforts to be good for God and to serve Him faithfully will include the persecution (unto death) of the bondservants of Jesus Christ—the sons of promise—the Chosen heirs. They will be persecuted just like Ishmael persecuted Issac.³⁰

As Jesus said, these religious people who come from His household will be fully convinced they are doing a service for God. "*They will make you outcasts from the synagogue, but an hour is coming for everyone who kills you to think he is offering service to God. These things they will do because they have not known the Father or Me.*"³¹

The religious deception and delusion of these unrepentant "believers" knows no bounds; thus, they do not repent of the **works of their hands**, so as not to worship demons.

I once received a word from the Lord. He said:

Israel's sin was to forget. Forget how I provided, forget how I protected, forget how I guided, and forget how I gave victory. They had the stories of my faithfulness, and watched as I continued in my promises, yet they still chose to forget. **The moment you forget who I AM, despair quickly befalls you Beloved.** Yet, this is a word of Hope, for when you remember there is an even greater power that dawns in your hearts, for light

³⁰ See **Genesis 21:8-10**

³¹ **John 16:2-3**

will not be overcome with darkness.

Exchange your meaningless thoughts of hopelessness for a mind that remembers who I AM. Be a people who give me your hearts by refusing to forget who I AM, what I have done, and what I am doing. Hope is not just who I AM, but what I AM.

Do you know what it means to be My Elect (Chosen one)? You stop trying to understand “Chosen” in your human minds, which cannot encompass my love for you. **To be My Elect, My Chosen, is to understand Who I AM, When I AM, How I AM, and that I AM.** Children, you are so much more than your minds can even determine, which is why you need Mine.

In our next Podcast, we will dive into this issue of the “worship of demons.”